



NEWS FROM HOINA HOMES OF THE INDIAN NATION

PO Box 87, St. Charles, Missouri 63302 • www.hoina.org • December 2017

Standard of Care Exceeded

by Alexis and Aaron
Friends of HOINA

My husband, Aaron, is a local from India, and I'm from the east coast in the USA. We were both honored to meet Darlene, or should we say, "Mom," a few months ago. My husband and I both have seen countless children's homes across India, and we can emphatically agree that HOINA is the most exceptional home we have ever seen.

Those of us from a Western perspective often have a set of expectations we assume as the "acceptable level of care" any child should receive. In India, however, you will be hard pressed to find orphaned children being taken care of with the level of care we Westerners would expect. We were overjoyed to see HOINA not only meeting these expectations, but exceeding them on every level.

During our time spent at HOINA, we heard the word "heaven" quite a bit. Darlene calls HOINA Heaven's Home; the children call it more of a heaven than a home; and the staff refers to the 20-acres of land as a heaven amidst the chaos outside the boundary walls. We quickly felt the same sense of overwhelming peace



With the HOINA girls we bid farewell to another year.

as soon as we walked onto the campus.

The brightly colored, mosaic walls; painted fences; and grounds speckled with flowers create an environment where children can truly be expected to grow, learn, and live in a safe and beautiful environment. In most of the children's homes I've visited, the children are still malnourished despite years of being taken into care, and they receive only a light subge (water with spices) and white rice for their meals. At HOINA, however, the food was nutritious and varied. We were even invited to eat alongside the kids, instead of being

continued on page 2

Standard of Care Exceeded continued from page 1

shuffled to another room where we would be fed a decent meal, unlike the children, as is the case in many other places.

HOINA is a place of remarkable peace, filled with smiles, laughter, and joy. I share my husband's and my experiences with children's homes in India not to paint a dark picture, but to shed light on the difference HOINA is making among the community. Thanks to HOINA, the bar is being set. The level of care every child deserves is being met, and the community around can bear witness to it.

My husband and I will be forever grateful for the encouragement and inspiration we received by

witnessing HOINA and meeting Darlene. Her countless years of faithful work can be seen by the increasing measure of fruit that HOINA bears, and we will always be changed having seen it ourselves.



HOINA boys studying the rules to learn a new board game.

HOINA Graduate Describes Our Home as Heaven

Dear HOINA Family,

I am Krishna Veni. I once was a HOINA student. I grew up at HOINA and have recently graduated. I did all of my studies at the HOINA home. Today I have become a teacher, and I am so happy.



K. Krishna Veni

I came to HOINA in the 9th class. I have recently been hired as a teacher. If I would not have come to HOINA, I would not be in such a good position as I am today because my family life before HOINA was not good. Because of HOINA, I have been able to finish my education and become a teacher. I feel thankful every second.

Every child feels like HOINA is a heaven. HOINA is providing education, food and shelter for children in need. The staff has impressed the children. I am such a lucky girl because God has given me a good life and a good home through HOINA.

I love you mom and papa. Every one is so happy when they are at HOINA. I am also happy here. Thank you for showing love and grace. HOINA is more like a heaven than a home. Today I am feel well and I am doing a good job. I am so happy and I love you mom and papa so much.

~ By K. Krishna Veni

Terrific Twins Need Sponsors



This month we feature twins, Bandara Meghana and Bandara Mohan, for our sponsorship article. The children's parents, Mr. B. AppaRao and Mrs. B. Devi, married in about 2005. These two siblings were born in October 11 years ago.

At the time of marriage Mr. Apparao was a laborer in Devarapalli. They moved to our area so that he could work for daily wages as a mason. One day in March of this year, he was preparing food in the morning when the gas cylinder for his kitchen burner caught fire. He tried to save his wallet, but he got severely burned in the process. He was hospitalized for six days and then passed away. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Devi resided with her parents. She went to work in a shop for daily wages at Sabbavaram while her children stayed with their grandparents. Since the grandparents are old and poor and living under a thatched-roof home, their mother applied to HOINA for help.

Meghana and Mohan were admitted to HOINA in our June class of students. Her favorite color is orange; his is pink. She would like to be a teacher someday while her brother's plans are a little less concrete, which is to be expected since they are only in the sixth grade.

If you would like to sponsor one or both of these children, please complete the coupon on the back page and send it with your first monthly gift of \$35.



Please remember our board member, Dr. David Fyfe and his group of students who will depart for India on December 26. Prayers for their safety and a successful trip are appreciated.

Be a Blessing This Christmas

We appreciate our donors who contribute to HOINA's Christmas fund to provide a gift for their child or for one without a sponsor. Would you consider helping us to provide a celebration for all of our children and staff? An honorary gift is easier than shopping for and wrapping a gift for a loved one and helps our children and staff enjoy the holidays, too!

Consider sending a gift with the coupon on the back page—any amount would be a blessing. We are humbled and grateful for your generosity.

Year-End Donations

We value your gifts to HOINA. To allow us to better serve you, please be sure to send your tax-deductible contributions to our office by Dec. 31 to ensure they will be counted on this year's giving statement, which will be sent to you in January.

HOINA is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization with international headquarters located at:

HOINA
PO Box 87
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This newsletter is published to inform our readers of the work HOINA does among the handicapped and abandoned in India.

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Dec 2017

Please use this gift of \$ _____ toward the HOINA Christmas Fund or where most needed.

I want to Sponsor a HOINA boy / girl (circle one). Here is my first monthly gift of \$35.

This gift of \$ _____ is in honor / memory of (circle one)

(please give name and address of person): _____

(please print clearly)



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Remembering Dirk L. Large

With heavy hearts we bring you news of another loved one's passing. Dirk L. Large, son of HOINA President, Darlene Large, and brother of HOINA Newsletter Editor, Letti Becker, passed from this life on November 10th after a valiant fight against cancer and diabetes. His sense of humor was matched only by his late father's. Dirk will be sorely missed by those who knew him.

Dirk supported HOINA in his young adult life by visiting the Bethany Leprosy Colony that HOINA helped to become self-sufficient. He wired the compound for electricity back in the 1980s. In his later adult life, he supported the work by manning the homefront and caring for the Large family home while his parents traveled overseas.

His obituary can be found online at Baue.com, by searching for his name in their obituaries. Gifts can be made in his memory to HOINA.

